

Indiana Department of Education



Room 229, State House - Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798

TO: School Administrators and Teachers
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
DATE: February 1, 2006
RE: Highly Qualified Update

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) emphasizes the importance of teacher quality in improving student achievement and requires each State Educational Agency (SEA) to develop and implement a plan to help local educational agencies (LEAs) within the state ensure that public school teachers are highly qualified by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. NCLB requires LEAs to ensure that public elementary school teachers are highly qualified to teach the basic elementary school curricula, and that junior high, middle and secondary school teachers are highly qualified to teach each core academic subject teaching assignment. The core academic subjects are defined as the following: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, history, geography, and fine arts.

NCLB allows each SEA to develop a method by which teachers not new to the profession can demonstrate that they are highly qualified. This method is called the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE). The HOUSSE is a rubric that veteran teachers who do not otherwise meet the statutory definition of highly qualified may use to assess their credentials, course work, professional experience and activities in order to meet the highly qualified requirements. The Indiana Department of Education has recently completed work on an updated version of the HOUSSE.

To provide information on the updated HOUSSE, in addition to details related to the highly qualified teacher provision of NCLB, the Indiana Department of Education has created a web site to house the most current information regarding highly qualified. This website can be found at: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/hqt>. This website contains the expanded highly qualified definitions, the updated version of Indiana's HOUSSE, a document specially designed for multi-subject alternative education teachers (HOUSSE and Waivers for Multi-subject Alternative Education Teachers) and the US DOE non-regulatory guidance for highly qualified.

Please be aware that Indiana licensing requirements differ from the definition of a highly qualified teacher. Teachers who teach elementary academic content or core academic subjects must meet both the licensure requirements for the state and the highly qualified teacher requirements. Meeting the highly qualified teacher requirements does not necessarily make teachers properly licensed to teach in Indiana. For accreditation purposes, please consult the Assignment Code (www.doe.state.in.us/dps/licensing/assignmentcode/welcome.html) to determine whether your licensure is appropriate for the teaching assignment.

It is important to note that while NCLB expects all teachers to be highly qualified, at this time there are no direct sanctions on a school or LEA if a teacher is not highly qualified. However, LEAs and schools should ensure that teachers are making progress toward becoming HQ.

Please review the documents and information on the highly qualified website (<http://www.doe.state.in.us/hqt>). After review, if you have additional questions please contact the Indiana DOE at HQT@doe.state.in.us.